

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
4/19/09 – 5/2/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Marv Gerlach reported very high ORV activity near Cedar River over the weekend. He contacted 72 ORV operators within a two hour period. A few tickets for minor infractions were issued.

CO Jason Niemi is investigating an illegal turkey complaint in which an unlicensed hunter took a turkey in Menominee County. The investigation is ongoing.

CO David Miller continues to investigate the death of a Bald Eagle found near a poison laced deer carcass. CO Miller is conducting the investigation in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Police, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

CO Denny Gast conducted a patrol near the Pilgrim River in Houghton County. Despite the pouring rain, about 100 smelt dippers were out. Officer Gast ticketed numerous individuals for fishing without a license and gave several warnings for alcohol violations.

CO Matthew Eberly responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint where a fox had been caught in a trap after the season had closed. The investigation revealed the trapper had a wildlife control permit to protect his exotic bird rearing business; however, he failed to tag his traps as required by law. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Steven Burton responded to a request for assistance from the Michigan State Police (MSP) with conducting a search warrant on a camp near Pt. Abbaye in Baraga County. During the search, a large cooler of suspected marijuana was seized along with a fresh skull and antler set from a moose. The investigation continues into the possession of the fresh moose parts.

CO Ryan Aho reported numerous high numbers of ORVs out and about in Dickinson County. Most violations involved youthful operation without adult supervision.

COs Jason Wicklund and Dave Painter responded to a complaint of a subject having illegal animals in his house. The COs interviewed the subject and removed a frozen owl from the subject's freezer, along with a fawn hide that he had tanned. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon responded to two fires this week that had escaped while brush was being burned. No burn permits were being issued due to the high fire danger. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho educated three juveniles who were not aware that their ORV licenses had expired. The youths were not far from a license agent and happily went to purchase their 2009 ORV licenses.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Kyle Publiski apprehended two subjects fishing within 100 feet of a weir and possession of a spear along a trout stream.

COs Kevin Postma, Gerald Thayer, Kyle Publiski and Sgt. Wally Binder participated in a group patrol that resulted in litter tickets and two license violation tickets.

COs Kyle Publiski and Kevin Postma were working smelt dippers when they encountered a subject operating his "mudder" truck on the shore of Lake Huron. He was issued a ticket. During the same patrol, COs Kyle Publiski and Kevin Postma issued license violations tickets. One subject was arrested and lodged on a warrant for absconding from the U.S. Navy.

CO Kevin Postma ticketed a subject for relocating live hares to a dog training facility during the closed small game season, on public land and with untagged catching devices.

CO Reid Roeske assisted US Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement with ORV operators damaging the federal forest land. After dealing with 11 ORVs, the USFS officer also became involved with a pursuit of other ORVs. CO Roeske apprehended the subject and turned him over to the USFS for prosecution.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon investigated what appeared to be a safety zone violation. The subject had shot at ducks from his deck. A case brief is being prepared and will be submitted to the local prosecutor for charges.

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill assisted MSP troopers from the Newberry Post with a suicidal subject who had threatened to shoot anyone who came into the house. Officer Hammill engaged the subject in conversation until he fell asleep. The officers then secured the subject, who was transported by emergency medical personnel to the local hospital.

## **DISTRICT 3**

CO Michael Feagan found census workers looking for residents in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. CO Feagan advised them that no one lives in the area for miles around and assisted them in the direction of the nearest residence.

CO Michael Feagan responded to a RAP complaint regarding ORVs operating in a closed area on state land. CO Feagan located two ORVs operating unlawfully and ticketed both of them.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted CO Steve Speigl and local deputies looking for a lost mushroom picker in the Jordan Valley. CO Speigl located the lost picker safe and sound on the North Country Trail by the Jordan River. The lost picker had only one morel.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a wildfire on Six Mile Lake. The homeowner was ticketed for failing to take precautions to prevent the spread of fire. He had been burning trash in an uncovered barrel when it escaped, burning the adjacent woods.

CO Andrea Erratt checked three anglers catching suckers on Deer Creek. They were told snagging suckers was illegal and one subject was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a wildfire at Carp Lake. An individual was burning the remnants of an old chicken coop when the fire escaped, burning two acres. She was ticketed for failing to take precautions to prevent a fire from escaping.

CO Andrea Erratt encountered several ORV operators on Charlevoix County roadways that were recently opened to ORVs. One group of ORVs was operating three abreast, blocking an entire paved roadway at an excessive rate of speed, creating a threat to public safety. One operator was ticketed for careless operation of an ORV.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped an individual operating an unlicensed ORV without a helmet. A subsequent LEIN check revealed his driver's license was suspended and he had two warrants for his arrest. He was ticketed for operating an unlicensed ORV without a helmet and warned for driving while license suspended.

CO Andrea Albert discovered leg hold traps in an Antrim County waterway. One of the traps contained a fox that had been there since the winter. CO Albert located the trapper who stated he left the area abruptly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of a subject who was seen with a truck load of snowmobile signs and posts. CO Albert found the subject who was using the posts for fencing his own property. In all, 21 posts were stolen. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Duane Budreau discovered approximately 30 "mudder" trucks and 120 people tearing up wetlands on state land. The COs caught ten of the operators and ticketed them. The others traveled to a new location where the COs had to hike  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to find the trucks. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall responded to a complaint that a subject was snagging steelhead on the Bear River and harassing other anglers who were fishing too close. The COs videotaped the subject attempting to snag steelhead. Officers Budreau and Vanderwall are seeking prosecution for snagging and angler harassment. The individual had just had his hunting and fishing privileges reinstated from previous violations.

CO Steve Speigl witnessed a landowner starting a fire. By the time it took CO Speigl to turn around and return to the site, the flames had reached 15' and spread to the nearby leaves. The flames were eventually extinguished and the subject ticketed.

CO Bill Webster wrote tickets to an angler who snagged fish illegally and fled the scene when approached by CO Webster. CO Webster caught up to the subject and ticketed him for the violation. A total of five fish were seized. CO Webster also ticketed an angler who was snagging and did not have a fishing license. In another incident, CO Webster observed a subject and his girlfriend illegally attempt to snag fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar is investigating a complaint of hunting turkey over bait and possible attempt to take an overlimit of wild turkeys. CO Molnar also heard a chainsaw while checking for turkey hunters and located a person cutting firewood in a closed area. The subject was ticketed.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of fishing a closed trout stream. After investigating, CO DePew received two confessions for fishing in a closed trout stream and fishing without a license. Charges are pending.

CO Mark DePew assisted the Gaylord City Police Department in apprehending a subject regarding a stolen BB gun.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint and, while there, heard a shot and found a person carrying a pistol around in the woods. The subject dropped the handgun when he saw CO Ross, and stated he had shot at a coyote. The subject's partner was also out in the woods and had a valid turkey permit. CO Ross ticketed the person for having a firearm afield without a license.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sam Koscinski observed two anglers fishing in Wexford County. One angler was releasing his fish, but the second angler kept some of the trout he caught. The CO observed the second subject stashing the trout in various pockets in his fishing vest. When contacted, the second subject stated he was glad to see the CO because he wanted to complain about all the undersized fish that other anglers were keeping. When CO Koscinski asked to see the fish he had in his vest, the subject produced five undersized trout. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGeldereren handled a complaint in Muskegon County regarding an illegally shot turkey. The complainant heard a gun shot, observed heavy tire tracks in the roadway and observed a turkey flopping in a field. Although the subjects were gone upon the CO's arrival, he was able to follow the tracks to a residence. CO Ivan Perez assisted CO VanGeldereren in contacting, interviewing, and obtaining a confession from the subject. The turkey was shot on private property from the road and the subject was trespassing. Charges are being sought.

COs Diane Drogowski and Jair Kollasch contacted three anglers with 14 legal sized rainbow trout in Grand Traverse County. When the COs asked to see their fishing licenses, only two of the subjects were able to produce licenses. The third subject was ticketed for fishing without a license and four of the trout were seized.

CO Jeff Ginn contacted several shore anglers on the Muskegon River. When the CO asked to see the license of one of the anglers, the subject was unable to produce a fishing license or identification. The subject gave the CO false identification several times, and when CO Ginn finally obtained the subject's true identity, it was determined that he had two outstanding arrest warrants. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license and then transported to jail by the MSP.

On the opening day of trout season, CO Jeff Ginn received a trespass complaint. CO Ginn tracked the subject, observed him fishing and retaining what appeared to be an undersized trout. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Bomay and Brian Lebel followed up on a complaint of waterfowl being taken during the closed season. The complainant observed a subject carrying a goose with a hole in its back. After a lengthy interview it was determined that the goose was shot with a center fire rifle within the city limits. A second subject involved in the shooting also had a concealed weapons violation.

CO Mike Bomay assisted local law enforcement officers with a complaint involving two subjects who were target practicing with a bow and hit a passing motorcycle. The subjects were charged with reckless discharge of a bow causing property damage.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint regarding a subject who was fishing prior to the opener of trout season on the White River, and then stocking his private pond with the fish. The subject had made statements that he was going to be fishing prior to the opener and without a license. This same subject was charged last year for taking deer without a license. The subject was advised by the magistrate in 2008 that if he got in any trouble in the future that he would be going to jail. Charges are being sought.

CO Mike Wells ticketed a subject for allowing a fire to escape. The subject was burning leaves in a subdivision and burned over one acre. In the last five years the local fire department has been called to the subject's residence several times for the same type of violation.

COs Sean Kehoe and Diane Drogowski contacted three subjects fishing the evening prior to the trout opener in Grand Traverse County. The three subjects were ticketed for fishing the closed lake and given a verbal warning for possessing live bait on the no bait lake.

COs Sean Kehoe and Diane Drogowski, while checking lakes the night before the trout opener, heard gunfire at a nearby camp. The COs contacted several individuals in the area and determined that the subjects had been target practicing, but were using a

flashlight to see their target. One of the subjects appeared to be intoxicated and failed the breathalyzer test. The subject was lodged in jail for possession of a firearm while under the influence.

CO Mike Wells followed up on a feeding complaint in Oceana County. CO Wells located a spin cast type feeder behind a cabin and a flock of turkeys feeding under the feeder. The CO observed a subject carry a shotgun into the woods, set up a blind and place decoys near the blind. When the subject returned to the residence he was no longer carrying the shotgun. Upon contacting the subject, the CO determined that the subject had been hunting and had hidden the loaded shotgun in a brush pile. The subject admitted to hunting without a valid license.

CO Mike Wells received a RAP complaint for Oceana County of several subjects netting fish. The CO located a 16, 17, and 21 year old netting steelhead. The three subjects had 12 steelhead totaling 74 pounds. The 17 and 21 year olds were ticketed for possession of fish illegally taken and the 16 year old was ticketed for possession of a net with a handle longer than 14 inches.

CO Jair Kollasch responded to a RAP complaint in Wexford County regarding two subjects cutting live trees. The CO located the woodcutters, a father and son, who were cutting standing live trees on federal property and intended to sell it as firewood. The wood was seized and the complaint information will be turned over to federal officers for follow up and prosecution.

CO Jair Kollasch responded to a fishing harassment complaint in Wexford County on the opener of trout season. Three juveniles were attempting to fish the Pine River and had gained access to the river from a road easement. A very hostile adjacent land owner contacted the juveniles and advised them they were trespassing and that they needed to leave. The juveniles returned to their vehicle and called the RAP hotline and explained their situation. The juveniles were approached again by the property owner while they were in their vehicle after they advised him they had called the hotline. The property owner reached into the vehicle and grabbed one of the juveniles by the throat. CO Kollasch was assisted by local deputies who will be handling the assault complaint, while CO Kollasch will be contacting the prosecutor's office regarding the fishing harassment.

COs Brian Brosky and Jim Espinoza contacted an angler fishing illegally near the Custer weir. Upon receiving a ticket, the person went into a tirade, unsuccessfully attempted to tear up his license and swore that he would never fish again. The next day the COs returned to the location and found the angler fishing near the same spot only this time fishing legally.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of a person burning toxic materials and found a subject burning demolition materials from a remodeling job. The items being burned included insulation and other harmful materials. A ticket was issued for the illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Jim Espinoza responded to a complaint involving a man who had a .45 caliber bullet pass close by him and strike his barn in rural Mason County. A follow up investigation revealed that two subjects were target shooting at a sand hill backstop over 500 yards away and had no idea that their missed shots were skipping toward the complainant's residence.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling in Manistee County when a woman driving an ORV without a helmet turned in front of him, drove into the oncoming traffic lane and began driving down M-115 at 75 to 80 mph. CO Converse managed to get the driver stopped safely and got out to speak with her. As he walked up to her she stated, "...Just take me to jail - I'm drunk". The driver was lodged.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling a Manistee County stream for steelhead fishing activity when he heard yelling and splashing around. He located two persons chasing fish and attempting to grab them by hand. The two were ticketed for attempting to take fish with an illegal device (by hand).

CO Steve Converse was working near Hudenpyl Dam in Manistee County when he encountered three persons walking from the river to their vehicle with fishing equipment. CO Converse checked licenses and returned to his vehicle. As the group was leaving, CO Converse noticed that the person driving had previously given him a Michigan ID card rather than a driving license. He stopped the vehicle as it was leaving and spoke again with the occupants. A nearby MSP trooper stopped by to assist. Follow up after the stop resulted in the arrest of one subject on an outstanding warrant and tickets issued for littering, driving while suspended, no insurance and no registration.

CO Angela Greenway visited a group of persons camping at three adjoining state forest campground sites located in Lake County along the ORV trail. The sites were littered with beer cans and other debris. The occupants arrived the previous evening and were cooking breakfast after having taken a ride on the trail that morning. After tickets were issued for failing to register, the group began complaining that they intended to pay for their sites but hadn't had enough time to fill out the camp card.

COs Steve Converse, Carla Soper and Sam Koscinski responded to a RAP complaint of a large group of ORVs operating illegally on state land in Manistee County. When the COs arrived they found several ORVs being operated illegally, but also found persons operating snowmobiles over the open water in a wetland. Enforcement action was taken, and one subject was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Bobbi Bashore issued tickets to several anglers on various stretches of the Au Sable River for fishing closed trout streams.

CO William Cherry investigated a complaint of turkey hunters trespassing on private property. CO Cherry obtained a confession from a subject who stated that he and two

juveniles were driving and saw a turkey on private property. The subject admitted that he knew it was illegal but he let the two juveniles out to hunt on the private property while he stayed in the vehicle. One juvenile called in the turkey and the second one shot it. The complainant drove to the location and arrived just as the two young hunters came out to the waiting vehicle. The adult subject backed out of the area in an attempt to avoid the complainant, but the complainant followed and was able to get a partial plate number and vehicle description and reported the information.

CO Bobbi Bashore ticketed a subject for operating his ORV in a closed area while his driving privileges were suspended and while consuming alcohol.

CO Chuck McPherson received a warrant for a subject in the illegal killing of a Merlin Hawk.

CO William Cherry ticketed a subject for operating his ORV without a helmet and lodged the subject on outstanding warrants.

CO Mike Hearn ticketed two subjects who were both fishing without a license and in possession of trout. The subjects were in a canoe without any life jackets and the 17 year old subject had been drinking alcohol furnished by the adult subject. One subject gave a false name to Officer Hearn but was later identified.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz located corn placed as turkey bait behind a cabin. CO Liestenfeltz and CO Mike Hearn checked the location frequently during the season. CO Liestenfeltz was finally able to contact the cabin owner who admitted to having placed the bait.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz overheard a complaint going out to a trooper of a subject who was being harassed and assaulted. The trooper was told he could meet the complainant at his fishing spot along a local trout stream. CO Liestenfeltz went to the same location and listened to the complainant as he told the trooper how several people yelled at him and threw rocks in the water around him as he fished in the river. After the subject finished his story, CO Liestenfeltz asked for his fishing license, which he had not purchased. The CO then advised him that he was fishing on a closed trout stream.

CO Joel Lundberg responded to a RAP complaint of a subject snagging fish at one of the dams. CO Lundberg located the individual and observed him climb under a fence right beneath a "No Trespassing" sign and then watched him attempt to snag fish. After identifying the subject, CO Lundberg remembered that he had been ticketed before for the same thing in the same place.

CO Joel Lundberg was patrolling for turkey hunters when he found two subjects with loaded guns in a pick-up truck and a freshly killed hen turkey in the bed of the truck. When Officer Lundberg checked the hunters' licenses, neither had a valid license for that hunt period. Further checking revealed that one of the subjects was a felon and could not possess a firearm, while the other subject had prior DNR convictions. The



subjects also confessed to having shot two other turkeys illegally. Both subjects were lodged in the county jail with several charges pending.

COs Warren MacNeill and Brian Engelhard were patrolling for turkey hunters when they located a subject with a loaded firearm in his vehicle who had been hunting from the car. A ticket was issued.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Jay Person was watching anglers on the Tittabawassee River from the opposite bank the Friday before the walleye opener. While watching two subjects camped along the river's edge, one subject walked down to the water's edge and kicked two pop cans into the river. Upon contact, the subject denied kicking the cans. The CO pointed out the cans matched the pop in the cooler as well as advising he watched him kick the cans into the water. The subject was ticketed for littering.

CO Jay Person checked two anglers the morning of the walleye opener with a limit of 10 walleye. The CO congratulated the anglers and stated it looked like they were done for the day, to which the anglers did not respond. During the early afternoon, the CO contacted the same anglers returning to their vehicle. They stated that they went back out to, "catch and release fish," since there were so many fish being caught. The CO advised them that since they had their limit for the day, they could not target walleye. Both anglers apologized and began to load their boat. Upon leaving, the CO drove around to a dead end road at the river and found the same truck and boat parked. The CO stayed in the area and caught them coming from the river with a stringer of 16 walleye that they had caught and hid on the bank. The subjects were interviewed and it was determined the 10 fish from the morning were at a residence. A total of 26 fish were seized and each subject was ticketed for taking an overlimit of walleye.

COs Jay Person, Chad Foerster, Nick Atkin, Phil Hudson, Jeremy Payne, Dan Lee, Holly Pennoni, Scott Brown, Robert Hobkirk, Seth Rhodea, and Sgts Tony Soave and Ron Kimmerly worked a group patrol targeting overlimits of walleye on the opener in the Tittabawassee River. The COs issued 28 tickets including 14 overlimits, three tickets for walleye taken before the season opened before midnight, three tickets for possessing walleye fillets on the water, and also tickets for short walleye, illegal gear, no fishing licenses, litter, and other marine violations. The COs seized 138 walleye for which restitution alone is approximately \$5,500.

During a group patrol on the walleye opener, Sgt Ron Kimmerly observed an angler jump out of a boat and run a trash bag of fish up the bank and put them in his parked van. An hour later Sgt. Kimmerly watched the subject run another bag of fish up to his vehicle. The subject then got back into the boat with his buddy and continued to fish for walleye. An hour later the two subjects were at the dock. CO Scott Brown and Sgt Kimmerly followed the subject vehicle, which made a stop at the van. The COs asked about their fishing success. Both stated it was a great day and they caught their limit.

The CO then asked about the walleye in the van. The COs seized 15 more walleye in the van. Tickets were issued.

During a group patrol on the walleye opener, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed three anglers in a boat come to shore. One of the anglers made a call on his cell phone and shortly thereafter a car pulled into the area. Soon after, the cell phone user was heading up the hill with a cooler of walleye. The subject and his wife were stopped by Sgt. Kimmerly with an overlimit of walleye. Tickets were issued.

During a group patrol on the walleye opener, Sgt Tony Soave observed a boat with four anglers come to shore. One of the anglers took a stringer of 20 walleye to a vehicle, put them in a cooler and took off. Sgt Soave continued to watch the other three anglers who went back into the river and started catching more walleye. CO Scott Brown and Sgt. Kimmerly made a traffic stop and issued the subject a ticket for possessing an overlimit of walleye. When the other three subjects were contacted they had more walleye in the boat and the three of them were also issued tickets for possessing overlimits of walleye.

CO Jay Person and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly checked several camps during the walleye opener. Two subjects were preparing to leave when the COs asked about their fishing success. Both anglers said they got their ten fish. Upon checking the cooler, the COs found six whole walleye and four walleye fillets. Checking further, two more walleye were found hidden in a plastic bag. As CO Person was issuing the ticket, another truck was getting ready to leave. The COs found a cooler packed with 40 walleye fillets. The subject said that he thought it was legal to have that many walleye if they were filleted. Another ticket was issued.

During a group patrol on the walleye opener Sgt. Tony Soave was approached by a township detective who was off duty. The detective pointed out an angler who had caught more than five walleye. Sgt. Soave watched the subject catch fish from his boat and then run them up the hill, put them in a vehicle and then start fishing again. The Sgt. watched the subject for some time and was able to run the boat registration. The vehicle took off before it could be stopped; but the following day CO Jay Person and Sgts. Soave and Ron Kimmerly paid the subject a visit at his residence. A search of the subject's residence produced 30 walleye fillets in the subject's refrigerator soaking in salt water. A ticket was issued for possessing an overlimit of walleye.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw River when he observed several individuals fishing below a bridge. As the CO was walking up to them, they saw him, ran under the bridge, and threw an object into the river. When the CO got to the location he found a beer can floating in the river with fresh foam coming from the opening and five more of the same kind unopened in a bag on shore. The angler stated he thought it was illegal to drink in public in the city, so he threw the beer into the river. A ticket for littering was issued.

COs Chad Foerster and Nick Atkin worked the Saginaw County River system the night prior to the walleye opener. The Freeland Walleye Festival was in progress and there were thousands of anglers in the area. The COs encountered numerous anglers on the river with walleye before the midnight opener. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding a hunter placing bait for turkeys in the middle of a section of property. Officer Lowell walked the property and located a large amount of corn along the edge of the woods. After a short wait sitting on the illegal bait, a 14 year old hunter walked out with his father to hunt. Contact was made with the youth and his father, both of whom had no turkey license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a remote lake on state land, CO Ken Lowell located two subjects fishing in a paddle boat. CO Lowell contacted the anglers and discovered they had no life jackets on board and neither had a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vickie Goss investigated a turkey road hunting complaint where she interviewed the subject and obtained a confession. Charges are being sought.

COs Chad Foerster and Nick Atkin were on patrol when they stopped a vehicle with two subjects on their way to state land to cut fire wood. The driver of the vehicle was in violation of his driving restrictions. During the investigation that followed, the COs located marijuana on the passenger and enforcement action was taken.

While working the walleye opener in Saginaw County, CO Holly Pennoni contacted three anglers on the Tittabawassee River who were in possession of fish fillets in their cooler on the boat and no carcasses. The fish were unable to be measured due to the condition of the carcasses. CO Pennoni issued three tickets for possession of mutilated fish.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a RAP complaint of a subject trespassing while turkey hunting. When CO Hobkirk contacted the complainant, he was informed that the complainant had already interviewed and photographed the subject. The complainant also told CO Hobkirk that the subject was not on his property, but on a neighbor's piece of land. As CO Hobkirk explained the trespass law to the complainant, he checked the hunter's name through the license system. The turkey hunter had not been trespassing but had started hunting 10 days prior to his season. Charges are being sought.

CO Seth Rhodea received information that two subjects were baiting turkey the prior year. CO Rhodea located two blinds and bait and walked in to the property the morning of the second opener. At daybreak, the CO observed two hunters walk in carrying bags of corn, spread the bait out, sit down, and begin calling turkeys. CO Rhodea contacted the hunters and ticketed them for hunting turkeys over bait.

CO Seth Rhodea checked a boat on the walleye opener that had 12 walleyes in the live well. Upon measuring a few of the walleye, it was determined they were of sub-legal size. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted an angler on the walleye opener who was launching his boat with an expired registration. The CO explained that he would receive a ticket for the expired registration if he launched and used the boat that day. A while later, CO Rhodea came back to the launch and contacted the same boat coming into the launch. The boat owner told the CO that he took a chance and deserved a ticket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith investigated an ORV trespass complaint at a private gravel pit. The CO contacted over a dozen ORVs operating illegally, issued six tickets and gave several verbal warnings.

CO Jason Smith also issued a ticket to an angler for keeping a largemouth bass out of season, even after he was warned by his fishing buddy not to keep it.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez investigated a complaint of a juvenile shooting an overlimit of wild turkey. While interviewing the subject, CO Goulette observed a camera in the subject's vehicle. After obtaining consent to view the photos from the camera, the COs were able to view pictures and video of two illegal birds that were taken by the subject. Charges are being sought on several wildlife violations.

COs Gerard Goulette, Patrick McManus, Mike Mshar, Ivan Perez, Jeff Rabbers and Chuck Towns worked a group patrol off Grand Haven that resulted in one subject being ticketed for an overlimit of perch. The COs then patrolled to the Black River in Holland where subjects were fishing for white bass. As the uniformed COs stopped a vehicle leaving the fishing location with an overlimit of white bass, the subject phoned back to the remaining anglers, prompting several subjects to start dumping illegal fish. The plainclothes COs were able to secure the evidence resulting in several tickets being issued for snagging of fish and possession of overlimits of bass.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez stopped at a local restaurant for lunch when they observed smoke coming from under an idling van. CO Goulette used the patrol vehicle's fire extinguisher to put out the fire before it was able to spread to the rest of the vehicle.

CO Greg Patten obtained a warrant for a subject who cut a large amount of live trees in the Hoffmaster State Park to widen the trails for his personal use.

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint of two subjects trespassing at the Muskegon County Wastewater facility. CO Patten located two subjects who were turkey hunting.

The subjects did not have the proper permits for the area. Enforcement action was taken on the recreational trespass and hunting violations.

CO Steve Orange followed up on a large pile of trash and appliances that were dumped in the Rouge River State Game Area. His investigation led to a subject who admitted to the dumping. The subject stated he had cleaned out a barn in return for use of the facility. The site will be cleaned up by the responsible subject.

Sgt. Dave Shaw stopped to check a turkey hunter who was slowly driving along a wooded trail. The subject possessed an uncased and loaded shotgun in the cab along with his pop-up blind and turkey decoy stored in the vehicle's bed. A ticket was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

COs Zach Doss and Steve Mooney received a complaint of a subject hunting turkeys using a spin cast feeder filled with corn. After scouting the area and observing a working feeder with corn, COs Doss and Mooney contacted the hunter and charges are being sought for hunting turkey over bait.

COs Zach Doss and Andy Bauer worked a turkey hunting location baited with corn they had discovered earlier in the week. On opening day of the turkey season, the COs observed a hunter shoot a large tom turkey first thing in the morning over the baited area. Tickets were issued for taking an illegal turkey and having a hunting stand without a name and address on it.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Jason J. Smith has worked numerous patrols on the Huron River to address the illegal activity of fishing without licenses, taking undersize and overlimits of fish, taking fish out of season, trespassing, and subjects with outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken in these instances.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy received a complaint that a subject had taken a turkey before the legal season had started. The COs' investigation led them to the subject who confessed that he had killed a turkey with a nice eight inch beard one week prior to opening day of turkey season. The subject stated he consumed the evidence. Charges are being sought.

COs Pete Purdy and Jason J. Smith contacted two subjects who were shore fishing. As the COs approached the subjects, they started to walk away. Upon contact, the subjects were not very cooperative and became quite belligerent. One subject stated that he "just got out of prison and was trying to teach his younger friend how to do things right". The COs suggested that fishing without licenses, lying to law enforcement officers, fleeing from law enforcement and being uncooperative was not setting a very good example for his friend. Enforcement action was taken.

After a severe storm had ripped through Jackson County, CO Shane Webster assisted local law enforcement agencies in clearing trees that had fallen onto roadways causing a safety hazard and obstructing traffic.

CO Rick Villerot observed a vehicle traveling in front of him throw garbage out the window. CO Villerot stopped the vehicle and asked the occupants why they were throwing trash onto the highway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss received information that numerous Canada Geese had been shot and killed with a small caliber rifle. CO Goss collected the evidence and the investigation continues.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Mark Ennett responded to a complaint of several subjects trespassing, shooting pistols and shotguns, and destroying property. Physical evidence retained by the complainant indicated non-lethal toys. CO Ennett tracked down several juveniles dressed in camouflage who were playing war games nearby with "air soft" toys. They belonged to a church youth group and were being supervised by their pastor. CO Ennett explained why he was there and pointed out the realism of their toys.

CO Mark Ennett observed a couple actively fishing and catching fish. The male walked away as CO Ennett walked over a bridge to their location. When he saw CO Ennett approach his girlfriend, he yelled at her to put the pole down. When asked for her fishing license, she denied fishing. CO Ennett gave them the option of going to a nearby store and purchasing a license in lieu of a ticket. They returned a few minutes later with the new license.

COs Danny Walzak and Jon Sklba responded to a complaint of fish snagging and observed three subjects actively attempting to snag fish. After observing two fish caught by snagging, the COs contacted the subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathan Sklba responded to a complaint of an individual hunting turkey over bait. He hid and watched as the subject and a friend walked within 10 feet of his position. When they got to their hunting location one of the subjects reached into a bag and spread out more bait. The two subjects were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft followed up on a captive wildlife complaint and issued a ticket for operating an unregistered captive cervidae facility. CO Ben Shively had responded to the address in 2008, issued a warning, and informed the operators to register the facility through the Wildlife Division. The owners did not return the necessary paperwork and CO Kieft issued the ticket.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a complaint of illegal turkey hunting in northern Oakland County. As the COs approached one of the hunters in a pop-up blind,

his hunting partner fled from a second blind. The hunting partner was found exiting the section of woods in full camouflage without a firearm. CO Shively searched the woods while CO Kieft questioned the hunters. During the search, a loaded 12-gauge shotgun was located along the path taken by the second hunter. The firearm was seized and warrants are being sought for taking a turkey without a license and hunting turkey without a license.

COs Ben Shively and Brandon Kieft contacted three subjects at 4:00 a.m. on the trout opener who were fishing on the Huron River. None of the subjects possessed fishing licenses and stated they thought they didn't need a license if they weren't keeping the fish. Two of the three subjects were also found to be in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel was at the mouth of the Lake St. Clair cutoff and checked seven anglers. Four of the subjects did not have fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken. One of the subjects was also arrested on three warrants.

CO Kris Kiel issued a ticket for depositing fish offal into the lake. He watched the subject fillet a 15 pound channel catfish and toss the carcass into the lake. There were eight more 5-20 pound catfish on a stringer that were ready to receive the same fate. Later in the day, while at an access site, CO Kiel ticketed a subject for fishing without a license. The subject was also arrested on three warrants one which was for \$44,000 in back child support.

CO Mark Papineau had received numerous complaints over the walleye closure of a subject fishing with illegal tackle behind Atwood Stadium in Flint. The subject would fish until he caught a walleye, put the fish in his vehicle and continue fishing. The subject would catch a fish, quickly leave then come back 30 minutes later and continue fishing. On the last day of the closure, CO Papineau received a RAP complaint at home after checking out of service. The complainant reported that the vehicle and subject matching the description of the previous complaints had two walleye in his vehicle and was still fishing. CO Papineau put his uniform back on and headed to the stadium. While en route, the complainant called back to advise the subject had three walleye and was leaving. CO Papineau responded to the subject's residence and found him filleting the walleye next to a hot charcoal grill. The fish were seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint of trespassing and illegally set muskrat traps. The CO collected three colony traps with several dead muskrats in them. They appeared to have been in the traps for several days. CO Papineau is working with CO Brandon Kieft, who is investigating a subject and similar complaint in Oakland County.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint in Flat Rock that an angler was keeping smallmouth bass. He located the angler, who had two smallmouth bass on his stringer. CO Ennett used a fishing guide and educated him on the difference between smallmouth bass and rock bass; they thought the fish they kept were rock bass. Both

fish were revived and released back into the river. One of the anglers was issued a ticket for out-of-season bass possession.

CO Mark Ennett found an angler who had gone into a fenced off area on the river near the dam in Flat Rock. Of the three persons present, only one had a fishing license despite the four poles in the water. A ticket was issued for fishing with too many lines and all three were warned on recreational trespassing for crawling through a hole in the fence to fish.

CO Jonathan Sklba responded to a complaint of an individual using poison to keep animals out of his yard. Before contacting the subject, CO Sklba walked the area and could smell dead animals. He found many dead animals, including a cat and a fox, along with others. In the subject's back yard, CO Sklba found five or six animal food dishes with food and a dark blue liquid. He also observed a live trap with a domestic cat still alive and an empty food dish inside. CO Sklba contacted animal control and the property owner. The subject stated that no one would help him with critters in his yard, so he took matters into his own hands. The subject was ticketed by CO Sklba for use of poison to take an animal and the animal control officer ticketed him for placing poison and food in an open area. The cat was taken by animal control to determine if it had ingested any poison. The blue liquid was found to be fly bait that comes in granular form. When added to water, the food absorbs the poison.

CO Brandon Kieft was contacted by local deputies about a man bow fishing in Sashabaw Creek. The deputies detained the subject because he couldn't show a valid fishing license. CO Kieft arrived on scene and issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Brandon Kieft was patrolling in northern Oakland County when he saw a vehicle parked behind a locked gate. While inspecting the vehicle, he observed hunting equipment inside. Further investigation led him to believe that the vehicle's owner was hunting turkeys without a valid license. A pop-up blind was located within 100 yards of the vehicle. The blind contained two video cameras, two seats, and other turkey hunting gear, however, there were no hunters in sight. While checking the hunter's decoys, CO Kieft discovered the area was baited with seed. CO Kieft waited for the hunters to return until dark. With the assistance of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and their aviation unit (helicopter), the hunters were located at a nearby residence at 10:30 pm. After interviewing the subjects, CO Kieft obtained written and verbal confessions to hunting turkeys without valid licenses and hunting turkeys over bait. The hunter's bows which had been hidden in the woods near their blind were located and seized. After reviewing footage from the video cameras, CO Kieft also obtained a confession from one of the subjects for attempting to take a turkey in the same area earlier that morning. The video tape clearly shows the subject take a shot at a good sized tom that was 15 to 20 yards away. The shot missed because the shooter hit the blind and scared the turkey away. The subjects tried calling, thinking the turkey would come back. Warrants will be sought in the case.



Before entering the Hall Road access site on Lake St. Clair, CO Kris Kiel noticed a subject walking with a pole and bucket from the dead end of the road towards the parking lot. The bucket looked heavy. When the subject saw CO Kiel, he just started to shake his head "No." CO Kiel pulled up next to him and asked him why he was shaking his head. The subject just kept walking and said that he had no luck fishing. When CO Kiel checked his bucket, it was filled with brown water, sunfish, rock bass, and a large tail sticking out of the water. He asked the subject what that large tail was from. He said that it was a rock bass. The bucket was dumped out and CO Kiel found a 13 3/4 inch "green bass" as he called it. The subject stated he did not know that he couldn't have it. He was issued a ticket for possess smallmouth bass during closed season.

CO John Borkovich assisted in the search for six subjects who were canoeing in the Port Huron area when a storm blew in. CO Borkovich found the subjects walking along the river cold and wet. They informed him they capsized further up stream.

CO Ken Kovach completed a two and a half month illegal deer investigation. The subject borrowed several kill tags from others and shot an overlimit of deer. When CO Kovach contacted the subject, he stated he heard CO Kovach was looking for him. He stated for the last month he was looking over his shoulder everywhere he went thinking CO Kovach was going to be right there. He also informed the CO that he was trying to come up with a story but knew it would not work. The subject was cooperative and gave a full confession. After the interview, the subject told CO Kovach that he was glad it was over.

CO Mark Papineau received a RAP complaint of a dead mallard duck in a subject's back yard. Upon interviewing two subjects, one of them admitted to intentionally shooting the duck with a pellet gun to see how it would react when shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler approached shore anglers on Mott Lake, one of whom was observed catching and keeping fish. When contacted, the subjects stated they had not caught any fish. CO Scheidler pointed out the undersized pike in the bucket and the subject admitted to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.